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Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2011

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The present note was prepared pursuant to paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 65/270, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), to expedite the implementation of that resolution, including through the expected provision of support to the Joint Inspection Unit by the secretariats of the participating organizations for the preparation of its reports, notes and confidential letters, and through the consideration of and action on the Unit's recommendations of the Unit in the light of pertinent resolutions of the Assembly, and to report to the Assembly on an annual basis on the results achieved.

2. In his capacity as Chair of CEB, the Secretary-General provides extensive support to the Joint Inspection Unit, beginning with the circulation of its reports. In accordance with the mandate of the Unit, the secretariat of CEB circulates all reports of system-wide concern to United Nations system organizations and compiles the comments received. During this process, as a matter of practice, the CEB secretariat requests organizations to respond within the deadline provided, so that reports can be produced within the mandated time frame.

3. During the 2011 period, the CEB secretariat prepared comments for eight Joint Inspection Unit reports, which represents an increase compared with previous years in the number of system-wide reports. In each case, organizations were requested to comment on the final version of the report, including the methodology used and the content of the recommendations. These comments, which are issued as United Nations documents under cover of a note by the Secretary-General, reflect the overall consensus of the United Nations system, although each organization may choose to address the specific recommendations within the framework of its governing bodies.

4. As noted above, the Joint Inspection Unit, in response to General Assembly resolutions, has increased the number of system-wide reports that it produces. For each report of this nature, the CEB secretariat collects and collates responses from agencies, and prepares a report containing the comments. This consolidated report is

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also circulated for confirmation by agencies before a final version is produced for consideration by governing bodies. CEB performs these actions within the existing capacities of its secretariat, which has not increased despite the increased demands placed upon it as a result of the increasing number of reports. The CEB secretariat, however, remains committed to satisfying this requirement within the agreed six-month time frame as called for in the statute of the Unit. Any adjustment to this process would require a review and consultation with member agencies of the Unit.

5. In addition to carrying out this report preparation process, the CEB secretariat has continued to work closely with the Joint Inspection Unit on the preparation of its annual programme of work. As has become common practice, late in 2011 the secretariat circulated to agencies a request for report proposals. The responses were compiled, and a further prioritization exercise was concluded. The results were then provided to the Unit for further consideration.

6. Furthermore, the CEB secretariat continues to maintain a constant dialogue with both the inspectors and the Executive Secretary of the Joint Inspection Unit, in order to ensure a smooth report preparation process and to identify methods for enhancing the value of the Unit's reports. The secretariat remains dedicated to cooperating with other inter-organizational bodies not only as mandated by relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, but also to further the collective efforts towards a stronger United Nations working effectively together.

7. In 2011, the subsidiary machinery of CEB continued its practice of inviting inspectors to participate in its meetings, as needed. As one example, the Information and Communication Technology Network of CEB welcomed the inspectors of the Joint Inspection Unit to its meetings to exchange views during the preparation of the Unit's report on information and communications technology governance. In addition, the inter-agency Procurement Network welcomed the inspectors to its meetings in 2011 during the preparation of the note of the Unit on procurement.

8. The Secretary-General will continue to pursue a closer working relationship with the Joint Inspection Unit and to encourage all organizations to respond in a timely manner and in a spirit of cooperation to requests of the Unit.

9. As regards organizations' consideration of and action on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in the light of pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly, chapter I, section E, of the annual report of the Unit for 2012 (A/66/34) contains detailed information about the actions taken by organizations of the Chief Executives Board in follow-up to recommendations of the Unit.